

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, which celebrates its 50th anniversary today.

More than two years before the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the city of Louisville asserted itself as a voice of compassion and reason in the face of hate, building on a recent history of social progress by passing an ordinance to formally condemn racial and religious discrimination.

The ordinance referred to elements that are "contrary to public policy and detrimental to the peace, progress, and welfare of the city," and in doing so created a city agency to monitor and adjudicate discrimination in public accommodations at a time when Louisville—and much of the country—was working to fully integrate schools, housing, neighborhoods, and public employment.

Over the past 50 years, the Commission has helped preserve and advance that history of progress, serving as a conscience for our community and protecting our citizens from discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, familial status, age, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

It has been a primary force in building a safe and supportive community where diversity is not only accepted, but embraced.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission on 50 years of important work, and I look forward to another 50.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AND THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Centennial Celebration, commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the gift of trees and the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan.

Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival heralds the coming of spring and produces diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit, showcasing the best of Washington, DC to the world.

More than one hundred years ago, the combined vision of unlikely partners led to the world-renowned majestic cherry trees that line the Tidal Basin in our nation's capital. Eliza Scidmore, the National Geographic Society's first female board member, Dr. David Fairchild of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, First Lady Helen Herron Taft, Mayor Yukio Ozaki of

Tokyo, and Dr. Jokichi Takamine, goodwill ambassador, world-famous chemist, and the founder of Sankyo Co., Ltd. (today known as Daiichi Sankyo), all worked together to bestow Washington, DC with more than 3,000 cherry trees in 1912. This gesture of goodwill was honored in a simple ceremony on March 27, 1912, when First Lady Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first two trees at the Tidal Basin. Today, the trees are a national treasure enjoyed by millions, and, as First Lady Taft envisioned, a wonderful backdrop for cultural and community events of all kinds.

Today, the National Cherry Blossom Festival unites the region for over one million visitors each spring, who look forward to signature events like the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade, world-class entertainment, cultural performances and more, primarily free and open to the public. Our Nation's greatest cultural institutions participate, including the National Gallery of Art, The Kennedy Center, and Smithsonian, with over 50 area organizations participating in total.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival greatly benefits the nation's capital. The Festival generates over \$126 million annually for Washington, DC, and has received many accolades and international recognition.

Among the many special commemorative initiatives to mark the historic Centennial Celebration, the Government of Japan has designated the Centennial Celebration an official anniversary event. The United States Postal Service has issued Cherry Blossom Centennial Forever stamps, and the American Bus Association has named the Centennial Celebration the top event for group travel in 2012. Millions of people have enjoyed the National Cherry Blossom Festival, and millions will continue to create cherished memories here in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the work of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the message of peace, friendship, and international understanding it carries on each year during the Nation's greatest springtime celebration.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of National Prescription Drug Awareness Month.

Throughout California, March is recognized as National Prescription Drug Awareness Month. The purpose of this initiative is to increase community awareness about the dangers that many medications may pose if not used properly.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared prescription drug abuse to be a national epidemic. In 2008, approximately 20,000 people died from prescription drug overdoses. In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals. These num-

bers are tragic and unacceptable, and we must make every effort to address the issue.

Fortunately, the National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse, NCPDA, is leading the effort to combat this epidemic. NCPDA is hosting a variety of events in California this month to help raise awareness and public engagement in the battle against prescription drug abuse. Education plays a critical role helping children, young adults, and their parents to avoid prescription drug abuse, and education serves an important first step to combating this serious problem.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the important work of the NCPDA and the role National Prescription Drug Awareness Month can play in preventing the loss of loved ones across the country.

HONORING JEFFERY L. KLEIN CEO OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Jeffrey L. Klein, on the occasion of his 25th Anniversary as CEO of the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County. His years of dedicated service have been instrumental in building a vibrant, diverse Jewish community in Palm Beach County and throughout South Florida. It is truly an honor to represent him in the United States Congress.

The Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County would not be what it is today without Mr. Klein's visionary leadership. During his tenure, the organization grew dramatically to include two state-of-the-art campuses in West Palm Beach and in Boynton Beach. In addition, the Federation was able to unveil many new programs to promote leadership, assist seniors, and educate teens about their Jewish heritage. Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Klein's efforts have led to the creation of programs that go beyond South Florida to strengthen ties to the global Jewish community in Israel, Ethiopia, and the former Soviet Union.

It is a privilege to represent an individual who has done so much to promote the welfare of the Jewish community across the world. I applaud his efforts, and I look forward to his and the Federation's good work for years to come.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Klein, together with his wife Carla, his children, and his grandchildren, as they celebrate this well-deserved honor.

RECOGNIZING ELVIN YU-LING DUNCAN CHIANG ON BEING NAMED THE 2012 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Elvin Yu-Ling Duncan Chiang

for his years of outstanding business leadership and community involvement on Guam. Mr. Chiang is the senior advisor and immediate past country managing partner of Ernst & Young LLP, Guam and Micronesia. He was recently named the Guam Financial Services Champion of the Year for 2012 by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Mr. Chiang graduated from Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Business Administration. While attending college in Japan, he served as the controller and director of Shintoyo Enterprises, Ltd's Tokyo, Japan and Guam offices. In 1978, he enrolled at the University of Puget Sound in Puget Sound, Washington, and received his Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Account in 1980. He went on to receive a Masters of Business Administration with an emphasis in Business Administration in 1982.

Following graduation, Mr. Chiang relocated to Guam and joined KPMG as an auditor until 1984. From 1985 to 1987, he taught at the University of Guam as an assistant professor of accounting. He served as the chief financial officer of Sigallo Pac. Ltd., Guam from 1987 to 1989. He then went on to work for Ernst & Young, LLP where he currently serves as the Senior Advisor and immediate past Country Managing Partner for Guam and Micronesia.

In addition to his extensive business career, Mr. Chiang is actively involved in numerous community organizations on Guam. He has served as President of the Rotary Club of Guam, Vice President and Treasurer of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, and Chairman and member of the Advisory Council of the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration. Further, he has been a member of the Advisory Council of the Guam Community College, a member and former Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for St. John's School, and has been a board member of the Chinese School Foundation.

I congratulate Elvin Yu-Ling Duncan Chiang on being named the 2012 U.S. Small Business Administration's Financial Services Champion of the Year for Guam. I join the people of Guam in commending him on this award and his many contributions to our community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. W. TODD AKIN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 127, 128 and 129, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on all three.

#### RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY POWERED REVITALIZATION

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize 6 Stones Mission Network and the cities of Hurst, Euless and

Bedford for their philanthropic project, Community Powered Revitalization (CPR).

In the midst of celebrating its 100th anniversary, First Baptist Church of Euless found itself on the brink of insolvency and without a leader. The massive debt and red ink on day-to-day expenses left little hope for repayment. Instead of closing its doors, the church began reverently praying for a miracle.

Within 27 months, six million dollars of debt was paid off and all other IOUs fulfilled—a miracle indeed. Overcoming this significant internal trial shifted the church's financial perspective towards helping others. Their newfound surplus of resources allowed the church to readily respond when the City of Euless needed assistance with a home revitalization project in 2008. After finishing their first home renovation, the church gained vision for a new non-profit, 6 Stones Mission Network. Launched in January 2009, 6 Stones is a coalition of cities, local churches and businesses collaborating to meet the needs of those throughout Tarrant County.

CPR actually began in 2008 when Gary McKamie, City Manager of Euless, presented two churches the opportunity to help two families that required substantial assistance in maintaining their homes. They both were in great need, but just did not have the resources, expertise or wherewithal to keep the homes up to code. The City of Euless had established a Leadership Team of employees representing every department of the city to not just lead, but to create and develop the program. This was done in partnership with area churches, businesses and other organizations that wanted to impact the community. That program was called Euless Revitalization. The First Baptist Church of Euless, realizing the many other growing needs in the community, launched a non-profit called 6 Stones Mission Network. Its purpose was to renovate homes, as well as try to help meet needs throughout Hurst, Euless and Bedford.

Then in the summer of 2010, the invitation was extended to Bedford and Hurst to partner with 6 Stones and the City of Euless, to help homeowners in their cities as well. That was the birth of CPR.

The CPR project uses effective partnerships with the cities of Euless, Bedford and Hurst to help struggling homeowners with costly, necessary improvements. In the spring of 2011, the project surpassed the benchmark of assisting 100 homeowners in despair. While their services are offered year-round, two CPR "Blitz" events take place annually, which involve a large volunteer base working together to impact several homes within two days. The product of one community's victory over financial woes is now breathing life into struggling communities across the 24th Congressional District of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking 6 Stones Mission Network and the cities of Hurst, Euless, and Bedford for their selfless service to our communities. I am honored to represent these great cities and to share their story with my colleagues in Congress.

RECOGNIZING PETER R. SGRO ON RECEIVING THE 2012 U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS AWARD FOR GUAM

**HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Peter R. Sgro on being awarded the 2012 U.S. Small Business Administration's Entrepreneurial Success Award for Guam. Mr. Sgro is the President and Chairman of the Board of International Group, Inc., the President and Chairman of the Board of Pacific Rim Brokers, Inc., and the Principal Broker of International Realty.

As the President and Chairman of the Board of International Group, Inc., a consulting firm that provides business development services for clients in the financial services, real estate, energy, and information technology industries, Mr. Sgro has built important relationships between Guam businesses and organizations throughout the United States and the Philippines. Under his leadership, International Group has assisted clients in securing more than \$20 million in business development loans.

Mr. Sgro also serves as the President and Chairman of the Board for Pacific Rim Brokers, Inc., a wholesale food distribution company that provides more than 200 product lines to local businesses on Guam. Since his election to this position in January of 2011, Pacific Rim Brokers has increased sales by 12 percent and hired 35 percent more employees, despite difficult economic environments.

In 2006, Peter Sgro established the Guam Hospital Development Forum, which was comprised of cross-section of local experts and stakeholders, to develop a business plan to construct a privately owned and managed hospital on Guam. One year later, in 2007, Mr. Sgro and his wife Kathy, founded the Guam Healthcare and Development Foundation to implement this business plan. As the Foundation's President and Chairman, Mr. Sgro has secured full funding from national and international investors, and a ground breaking ceremony on this private hospital was held in February of 2012. This new, state of the art facility will provide more than 300 hospital beds for local patients and is expected to open in 2014.

Mr. Sgro is also an active member in our community. He has served on the University of Guam Board of Regents, the Guam Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Guam Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. During his tenure as the Chairman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Mr. Sgro established the Guam Business Hall of Fame to recognize local business leaders who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and to Guam's community. This recognition ceremony continues to be an annual tradition of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Sgro is married to Katherine Calvo Sgro and they have four children: Christopher, Matthew, Katarina, and Maria. He is a 1981 graduate of the University of Portland, where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in management and marketing. In